DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CEYLON.

BULLETIN No. 36.

RUBBER-MANURING EXPERIMENTS: EXPERIMENT STATION, PERADENIYA, 1915—1917.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CEYLON. BULLETIN No. 36.

RUBBER-MANURING EXPERIMENTS AT PERADENIYA.



HE results of these experiments to the end of 1914 were published in Bulletin No. 18, 1915. The experiments have been continued to date on the lines indicated, i.e., a general mixture containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash.

modified in the other plots to contain an excess of each ingredient and the gradual elimination of the non-essential. The plots are as follows:—

- General Mixture: Plot 83 A and B; 42 trees; 29 trees tapped.
- 2. Excess Nitrogen: Plot 83 D and 84 A; 46 trees; 42 trees tapped.
- 3. Excess Phosphoric Acid: Plot 84 C and D; 46 trees; 34 trees tapped.
 - 4. Unmanured: Plot 85 A and B; 33 trees; 25 trees tapped.
 - 5. Excess Potash: Plot 85 D and 86 A; 48 trees; 35 trees tapped.
 - 6. Mineral Mixture: Plot 86 B and C; 47 trees; 40 trees tapped.

The average girth of all the trees tapped was from 29.4 inches to 29.7 inches in January, 1914, when alternate day tapping was begun with one cut to the left on one-third at 26 inches.

Manure was applied in February, 1913, but none in 1914. From 1915 the manures have been applied annually in rows between the trees. The rows are dug 2 to 3 feet wide and 6 inches deep, all leaves swept in over the manure and forked in, the trench being then filled. Later manuring shows that 6(4)18

these trenches are full of rootlets, but with few below the 6 inches depth. The manures applied in 1916 and 1917 supplied the following amounts per acre of the chief ingredients:—

General Mixture Plot: N 50 lb.; $P_{2}O_{3}$ 30 lb.; $K_{2}O$ 30 lb. Excess Nitrogen Plot: N 80 lb.; $P_{2}O_{3}$ 9·5 lb. Excess Phosphoric Acid: N 9·5 lb.; $P_{2}O_{3}$ 80 lb. Excess Potash: N 9·5 lb.; $K_{2}O$ 80 lb. Mineral Mixture: N 50 lb.; $P_{2}O_{3}$ 30 lb.; $K_{2}O$ 30 lb.

The dates of manuring were January, 1915; March, 1916; and June, 1917.

The control rows between the plots 1 to 5 were uprooted in October, 1916, as more air and root space was necessary.

Tapping.—The first area of one-third at 26 inches was tapped from January, 1914, to end of May, 1916, and lasted twenty-nine months, the average consumption being 0.89 inch per month. The second area was begun on June 1, 1916, at 20 inches, and to the end of 1917 14.6 inches of bark had been used, or an average of 0.77 inches per month.

No water was employed, and the daily yield of pure later from each plot was recorded in cubic centimetres. This was manufactured into rubber, and the dry weight and scrap was recorded monthly in grams. The weight in grams is converted into ounces by multiplying by 0.035.

Climate.—The rainfall and number of wet days are fairly uniform year by year, but there was a severe drought in January and February, 1916, which caused rather heavier seeding. The drought was followed by more continuous wet weather in June and July, resulting in a considerable amount of diseased pods.

In 1917 there was no drought in the early part of the year, and the rainfall was fairly well distributed. Much less seed was formed, and there were only one or two instances of diseased pods.

Comparing the yields of latex in the first quarters of 1915, 1916, and 1917, respectively, the effect of the climate on crop is marked. 24.82 per cent. of the total crop was produced in 1915, when February and March were rather dry; 19.66 per cent. in 1916, when there was a severe drought in January and

February, and 30.80 per cent. was produced in 1917, when January and February were unusually wet.

Table showing the monthly rainfall and number of wet days from 1914 to 1917, inclusive :—

	191	4.	191	15.	1916.		1917.	
	Inches	Wet Days.	Inches.	Wet Days.	Inches	Wet Days	Inches	Wet Days.
Jan.	2.20	8	9 · 40	14 .	49	2	5.83	12
Feb.	0.33	3	4.17	3 .	. —	—	6.12	13
March	4.56	10	1.85	6 .	.10.64	13	6.49	17
April	5.87	11	5.57	9 .	. 6:10	9	2.15	6
May	4.83	10	2.76	8 .	. 7.30	10	4.63	3
June	12.47	27	9.10	13 .	.13.67	20	10.24	14
July	5 17	17	12.84	20 .	.12.53	26	6.40	13
August	5.71	11	5.10	13	4 • 69	16	9.95	15
Sept.	7.60	16	10.07	16 .	. 6.67	16	15.04	19
Oct.	11.87	25	5.88	10 .	6.77	19	9.63	13
Nov.	7.41	19	12:21	27 .	. 9.16	14	16.49	18
Dec.	14.70	21	8.64	14 .	. 4.04	10	6 49	13
Total	. 82.72	178	$87 \cdot 59$	153	84.06	155	99 · 46	156

Diseases.—A considerable amount of bark rot and pod disease was apparent in 1916, but little in 1917, only one tree in the general manure plot showing black pods.

Yields.

Table showing the yields of dry rubber per tree from the manured and unmanured plots in lb. and oz. from 1914 to 1917, inclusive:—

	1914.		1	1915.		1916.		917.		
	lb.	oz.	lb.	OZ.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
General Mixture	. 2	4.4	3	0	3	13	4	5.4	13	6.8
Excess Nitrogen.	. 2	5.7	3	7.8	3	13.9	4	6.8	14	$2 \cdot 2$
Excess Phosphoric	3									
Acid	. 2	$7 \cdot 2$	3	9 • 2	4	$3 \cdot 9$	4	9.4	14	13.7
Excess Potash	. 2	3 · 2	2	11.8	3	8.6	- 3	10.7	12	2 . 3
mineral Mixture.	- 2	5 · 4	- 2	3 . 2	3	11 -4	- 3	9.0	12	12 - 1
Unmanured	2	11.5	3	9.7	4	0.4	4	0.2	14	5.8

It will be noticed that, with the exception of the phosphoric acid plot, the total yield from the unmanured plot for the four years is the highest. During 1917, however, the unmanured plot and the mineral mixture plot show a decrease on the

previous year's yield, while all the others continue to show an increase, though only to a small extent in the case of the potash plot, which has been consistently poor from the beginning of the experiments. Comparing the yields or 1914 and 1917 in each plot, the increases are as follows:—

		Increas	ed Yiel oz.	d.	Increase over Unmanured Plot.
General Mixture		2	1		12 · 3 oz. per tree
Excess Nitrogen		2	1.1		12.4 oz. per tree
Excess Phosphoric A	cid	2	$2 \cdot 2$		13.5 oz. per tree
Excess Potash		1	7.5		2.8 oz. per tree
Mineral Mixture		1	4.6		-0.1 oz. per tree
Unmanured		1	4.7		_•

The general organic mixture, excess nitrogen, and phosphoric acid in this way show a marked increase over the unmanured plot. The increased yield per tree per annum in each plot is shown below, and the unmanured tends to show that without suitable manure rubber yields will not continue to improve after a certain stage.

Table showing the increased yield per tree in each succeeding year 1915 to 1917, inclusive:—

	1915. 08.	1916. oz.	1917. oz.
General Mixtur	 11.6	 13.0	 8.4
Excess Nitrogen	 18 · 1	 6.1	 8 . 9
Excess Phosphoric Acid	 18.0	 10.7	 5.5
Excess Potash	 8.6	 12.8	 2 · 1
Mineral Mixture	 13.9	 8.1	 2 · 4
Unmanured	 12.2	 6 · 7	 0.2

Excess of nitrogen and phosphoric acid had an immediate effect in 1915 over the normal increase, due to age, girth, and the cutting out of the cocoa in September to November, 1912. In 1916 the increase from the second application of manure in 1915 was less marked, except in the plots with general mixture and excess of potash. The excess nitrogen plot showed a lower increase than the control plot. The lower increase in this year was due partly to the drought in January and February. In 1917 the general mixture, excess nitrogen, and phosphoric acid plots continued to show a further increase, and to a slight extent in the potash plot, while the mineral

mixture and unmanured plots show a decrease over 1916 yields. The annual cost of the manures applied are approximately as follows:—

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General Mixture Rs. 62 per acre
Excess Nitrogen Rs. 67 83 per acre
Excess Phosphoric Acid Rs. 25 56 per acre
Excess Potash Rs. 26 18 per acre
Mineral Mixture Rs. 50 60 per acre
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As the trees are planted about 18 feet by 18 feet, or 134 trees per acre, and every third row has been cut out, the trees now number 90 per acre, and on this basis the value of the increase and the cost per acre can be compared, not allowing for the extra cost of manufacture.

Table showing the increase of dry rubber per acre in each year at 90 trees per acre:—

	1915.	1916.	1917.	Total.	Cost of Manuring, 8 Years.
	lb.	lb.	ib.	1b.	Вз. с.
General Mixture	65.25	73 · 12	47.12.	.185 -49	186 0
Excess Nitrogen	101.81	34.31	50.06.	. 186 • 18	203 49
Excess Phosphoric Acid .	101 . 25	60.19	30.93.	. 192 • 37	76 50
Excess Potash	48.38	72.00	11.81.	. 132 • 19	78 54
Mineral Mixture	78 · 19	45 ' 56	13.50.	$.110 \cdot 25$	151 80
Unmanured	68.62	37.69	1.12.	.105 - 19	· —

Taking 105: 19 lb. of the unmanured plot as the total normal increase for the three years, and deducting it from the increases in the manured plots, the results are as follows:—

Nett Increase.

General Mixture	 80 · 30 lb, at a cost of Rs. 186
Excess Nitrogen	 80 · 99 lb. at a cost of Rs. 203 · 49
Excess Phosphoric Acid	 87.18 lb. at a cost of Rs. 76.50
Excess Potash	 27 · 00 lb. at a cost of Rs. 78 · 54
Mineral Mixture	 5.06 lb. at a cost of Rs. 151.80

From these figures it would appear that the manure containing an excess of phosphoric acid was most profitable. This manure was of the following composition:—

lb. per Acre.

Groundnut cake Steamed bone dust Basic slag	 	50 200 200	Containing— Nitrogen 9·5 lb. Phosphoric Acid 80·0 lb.
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The development of foliage and general vigour is, however, less marked in this plot than in any of the other plots.

Table showing the quarterly yields of latex, rubber, and scrap :— $\,$

In 1915.

Alternate day tapping one-third circumference one cut to left at 26 inches.

		Plot	83, Rows A			3.	
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	P	er Cent. Scrap.
January-March	24,995		8,609		942		34·4
April-June	24,530		8,398	• •	829		34.2
July-September	24,590		8,337	• • •	880		33.9
October-December.	33,790		10,856		992		32 · 1
	107,905		36,200		3,643		33.8
	Plo	t 83, I	Row D, and	l 84, R	ow A; 42	Trees	
				s Nitro			
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Serap.	P	er Cent. Scrap.
January-March	49,190		16,398	٠.	965		33 · 3
April-June	44,260		15,197		874		34 . 3
July-September	39,890		13,977		800		35.03
October-December .	53,530		17,755	٠.	1,004	••	33.1
	186,870		63,327		3,643		33 9
		Plot	84, Rows	C and	D : 34 Tre	es.	
			Excess Pl				
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	P	er Cent. Scrap.
January-March	34,025		11,735		967		34 · 4
April-June	38,880		12,757		992		32.8
July-September	31,650		10,934		735		34.5
October-December .	49,160		16,533	• •	980		33.6
	153,715		51,959		3,674		33.8
		Plot	85, Rows	A and		ees.	
	Latex.		Rubber		Scrap.	F	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	26,390		8,554		1.025		32.4
April-June	24,300		8,166		904		33.6
July-September	28.050		9,215		705		32.8
October-December .	37,740		11,785	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	881	••	31.2
	116,480		37,720		3,515		32.5

		١.	,				
	Plo	t 85, 1	Row D, and Excess			Trees	ı.
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.		er Cent. Scrap.
January-March	33,895		11,145		1,022		32.8
	32,040	• • •	10,094	• •	865		31.5
April-June	23,750		7,290		690	• •	
July-September	38,620	• •		• •		• •	30.6
October-December .	38,020	••	11,909	• •	841	• •	30.8
	128,305		40,438		3,418		31.4
		Plot	86, Rows	B and		es.	
	Latex.		Rubber.	n Mint	Scrap.	I	er Cent.
T Manah			15,261		1.001		Scrap.
January-March	47,015	• •		• •	1,091	• •	32 • 4
April-June	40,960	• •	13,952		1,004		$34 \cdot 0$
July-September	34,710		10,927		799		$31 \cdot 4$
October-December .	45,790		14,508	• •	1,144	٠.	31 6
	168,475		54,648		4,038		32.3
		In 1	916				
					-		
		Plot	83, Rows .			PS.	
				d Mixt	ure.		
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.	I	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	28,940		10,894		1,127		37.6
4 17 f	28,970		9,408		893	• •	32 · 4
July-September	38,080		11,785		1,026	• •	30.9
October-December .	49,600	• •	15,858	• •	1,229	• •	31 · 9
	145,590		47,945		4,275		$32 \cdot 9$
	Plo	t 83. 3	Row D, an	d 84, E	low A : 42	Trees	3.
		,	Excess				
	Latex.		Rubber.		Scrap.	I	er Cent.
Tonus 35 1	cc.		10 550		1 101		Scrap.
January-March	45,300	• •	16,773	• •	1,181	• •	37.02
April-June	45,300		14,214		1,079		31 3
July-September	57,040		16,478		1,029		$28 \cdot 8$
October-December .	68,700		22,118	• •	1,396	• •	$32 \cdot 1$
	216,340		69,583		4,685		32 - 1
			t 84, Rows			ees.	
			Excess of .	Phosph			
	Latex. cc.	1	Rubber.		Scrap.	J	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	35,950		13,344		1,261		37.1
April-June	39,150		12,942		1,077		33.05
July-September	51,230		14,601		1,208		28.5
October-December .	57,130	• •	20,165	• •	1,386		35.2
	97,130	• •	20,100	• •		••	
	183,460		61,052		4,932		33.2

		Plot	85, Rows	A and	B ; 25 Tre	ев.	
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.	obudi.	Scrap.	J	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	26,210		9,335		1,131		35.6
April-June	29,200		9,271	•••	932	• •	31.7
	36,320		9,324	• •	1.029	• •	
July-September		• •		• •		• •	25.6
October-December .	38,590	• •	12,813	••	1,515	• •	33 · 2
	130,320		40,743		4,607		31 · 2
	Pl	ot 85,	Row D, as			5 Tre	es.
	Latex.		Rubber.	UL T ULO	Serap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	30,940		10,651		1,210		34 · 4
April-June	36,880		11,075		1.060		30.02
-*·	47,840		13,172		1,000		
		• •		• •		• •	27.5
October-December .	52,920	• •	17,046	• •	1,392	• •	32.2
	168,580		51,944		4,662		30.8
		Plot	86, Rows Miner	B and al Mixt		es.	
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	39,110		14,121		1,392	٠.	36.1
April-June	43,510		13,265		1,362		30.4
July-September	54,460	• •	15,400	٠.	1,514	• •	28 · 2
October-December .	59,210	• •	19,081	• •	1,734	• •	32.2
	196,290		61,867		6,002		31.2
		In 1	917.				
		Piot	83, Rows .	A and I	3; 29 Tree	9.	
			Genera				
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.	,	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	46,010		14,987		1,409		32.5
April-June	30,900		11,600		1,105	• • •	37.6
July-September	27,880	• •	10,366		911	• •	37 - 2
October-December .		• •		• •		• •	
October-December .	45,550	••	15,982	٠٠.	1,128	• •	35.08
	150,340		52,935		4,553		35.6
	Plot	83, R	ow D, and Exces	84, Ro s Nitro		Trees	
	Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap
January-March	68,400		23,437		1,685		$34 \cdot 2$
April-June	47,210		16,666		1,137		35.3
July-September	43,620		17,314		1,215		39.6
October-December		• •		• •		• •	34 .8
occordinger.	63,880	••	22,251	• •	1,232	••	04 U

35.9

5,269

79,668

223,110

(9)

Plot 84,	Rows	C and	D;	34	Trees.
-					

		Tracess L	поврп	oric Acid.		
Latex. cc.		Rubber.		Scrap.		Per Cent. Scrap.
47,990		17,468		1,787		36 · 3
37,560		13,593		1,200	٠.	36 · 1
36,980		14,957		1,071		40.4
55,130		20,100		1,199	• •	36 • 4
177,660		66,118		5,257		37.3
	47,990 37,560 36,980 55,130	47,990 37,560 36,980 55,130	Latex. Rubber. cc. 47,990 . 17,468 37,560 . 13,593 36,980 . 14,957 55,130 . 20,100	Latex. Rubber	60. 47,990 17,468 1,787 37,580 13,593 1,200 36,980 14,957 1,071 56,130 20,100 1,199	Latex. co. Rubber. Scrap. 47,990 17,468 1,787 37,580 13,593 1,200 36,980 14,957 1,071 56,130 20,100 1,199

Plot 85, Rows A and B; 25 Trees.

Control.

	Latex.		Rubber.	Scrap.	1	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March .			12,537	 1,646	••	32.2
April-June .			8,682	 1,246	• •	36.05
July-September .	. 24,790		7,860	 916		31.7
October-December	33,240	• •	11,884	 1,137	••	35.7
	120,980		40,963	4,945		$33 \cdot 9$

Plot 85, Row D, and 86, Row A; 35 Trees.

Excess of Potash.

		JAKOO BBO	LOW	mott.		
	Latex.	Rubber.		Scrap.	P	er Cent. Scrap.
January-March	49,680	 16,145		1,872		32.4
April–June	33,390	 12,855		1,296		38 • 4
July-September	30,410	 10,156		928		$33 \cdot 4$
October-December .	42,490	 14,789		1,187	• •	34 · 8
	155,970	53,945	1	5,283		34.7

Plot 86, Rows B and C; 40 Trees.

		Mineral	Mixt	ire.		
	Latex. cc.	Rubber.		Scrap.	J	Per Cent. Scrap.
January-March	54,220	 17,869		1,716		32.9
April-June	33,980	 12,804		1,355		37.6
July-September	34,450	 11,754		957		34 • 1
October-December .	47,680	 17,461	••	1,291	••	36 • 6
	170,330	59,888		5,319		35.3

Increases in Girth.

Table showing the increase of girth from January, 1914, t
January, 1918. All the trees were measured at 3 feet from th
ground:—
Plots Manured. 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, Total Average Inches, Inches, Inches, Inches, Inches, Increase. Increase
General Mixture (29 Trees).
Average29·4733·6837·0641·0443·72 — — Increase —4·213·383·982·6814·253·5
Excess Nürogen (42 Trees).
Average29 ·8834 ·1737 ·4641 ·0243 ·90 — — — — 4 ·29 3 ·29 3 ·56 2 ·8814 ·023 ·3
Excess Phosphoric Acid (34 Trees).
Average29 ·4333 ·4936 ·8340 ·4843 ·26 — — — 4 ·06 3 ·34 3 ·65 2 ·7813 ·833 ·4.
Excess Potash (35 Trees).
Average29 ·2933 ·7737 ·2040 ·1541 ·62 — — — — 4 ·48 3 ·43 2 ·95 1 ·4712 ·333 ·06
Mineral Mixture (40 Trees).
Average29 ·7134 ·4637 ·6542 ·3144 ·15 — — Increase — 4 ·75 3 ·19 4 ·66 1 ·8414 ·443 ·61
Unmanured (25 Trees).
Average29·3334·0937·7642·5845·84—— Increase—4·763·674·823·2616·514·15
The control plot continues to show the greatest increase in
girth in the fourth year, while the potash and mineral mixture
show the least. The latter, however, comes next to the control
1 4 6 (1 6

plot for the four years period.

Percentage of Caoutchouc in Latex.

Table showing the effect of different manurial ingredients on the percentage of Caoutchouc in the latex :-

			I	er Cent. of C	aoutchouc	
			Excess Nitrogen.		Excess Potash.	Mineral Control.
1914		. 34.7	33.4	32.7	33.0 .	. 33.01 32.8
1915 1916		. 33•8	33.9	33 · 8	31.4 .	. 32 3 32 9
1917		35.6	32 1	33 2	34.7	. 31·5 31·2 . 35·3 33·9
Averag	o for 4 years		33.8	34.2	32.5	33.02 32.6

Evaporation of Rubber Latex.

In order to test whether the calculation of rubber to latex would be affected to any extent by loss from evaporation in the field before coagulation, weighed samples were taken on several dull and bright days, and weighed hourly after full exposure to light and air. The average loss in 3 hours was only 1·23 per cent. on dull days, and 2·01 per cent. on bright days, which would allow a maximum error of 0·7 per cent. As all latex was treated in the same way, as soon as possible after tapping, the individual error is almost negligible.

Manures Employed.

The following mixtures have been employed in the experiments, the manures being applied in a trench dug between the rows:—

General Manure.

Plot 83 A and B; 42 Trees.

Supplying N 50 lb., P2O5 30 lb., Potash 30 lb.

lb		1	Per Acı lb.	re.
84 84 57 31 26	•••	Groundnut cake Blood meal Steamed bone meal Sulphate of potash Sulphate of ammonia	200 200 136 75 60	Containing— Nitrogen, 50 lb. Phosphoric Acid, 30 lb. Potash, 30 lb.

Or 6.71 lb. per tree. 42 trees \times 6.71 lb. = 282 lb. manure.

Excess of Nitrogen.

Plot 83 D, 84 A; 46 Trees.

Supplying 80 lb. Nitrogen.

lb.			Per Acı	re.
84			lb.	
19 138 69	•••	Groundnut cake Steamed bone meal Blood meal Sulphate of ammonia .	182 43 300	Containing— Nitrogen, 80 lb. Phosphoric Acid, 9.5 lb.
310		. amonate of ammona	150	

Or 6.75 lb. per tree. 46 trees \times 6.75 lb. = 310 lb. per plot.

675

Excess of Phosphoric Acid.

Plot 84 C and D; 46 Trees.

Supplying 80 lb. Phosphorie Acid.

lb.]	Per Acr lb.	re,
20 78 78	 Groundnut cake Steamed bone dust Basic slag	::	50 200 200	Containing— Nitrogen, 9 · 5 lb. Phosphorie Acid, 80 lb.
176			450	

Or 4.5 lb. per tree containing 0.8 lb. phosphoric acid. 39 trees \times 4.5 lb. = 176 lb. per plot.

Excess of Potash

Plot 85 D and 86 A; 48 Trees.

Per Acre.

ıb.				10.	
65 96 161	•••	Groundnut cake Sulphate of potash	::	136 200 336	Containing— Nitrogen, 9 5 lb. K ₂ O 80 lb.

Or 3.36 lb. per tree containing 0.8 lb. potash, 48 trees \times 3.36 lb. = 161 lb. per plot.

Mineral Mixture.

Plot 86 B and C; 47 Trees.

		1	Per Acı	e.
lb.			lb.	
131	 Nitrolim		278	Containing-
83	 Basic slag	٠,	176	Nitrogen, 50 lb.
35	 Sulphate of potash	٠.	75	P ₂ O ₃ 30 lb.
				K ₂ O 30 lb.
249			529	

Or $5 \cdot 29$ lb. per tree. 47 trees $\times 5 \cdot 29$ lb. = 249 lb. per plot.

April 30, 1918.

M. KELWAY BAMBER.